STUMPTOWN™
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The Case of a Cup of Joe:
Part Four
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STUMPTOWN™

The Case of a Cup of Joe • Issue Four

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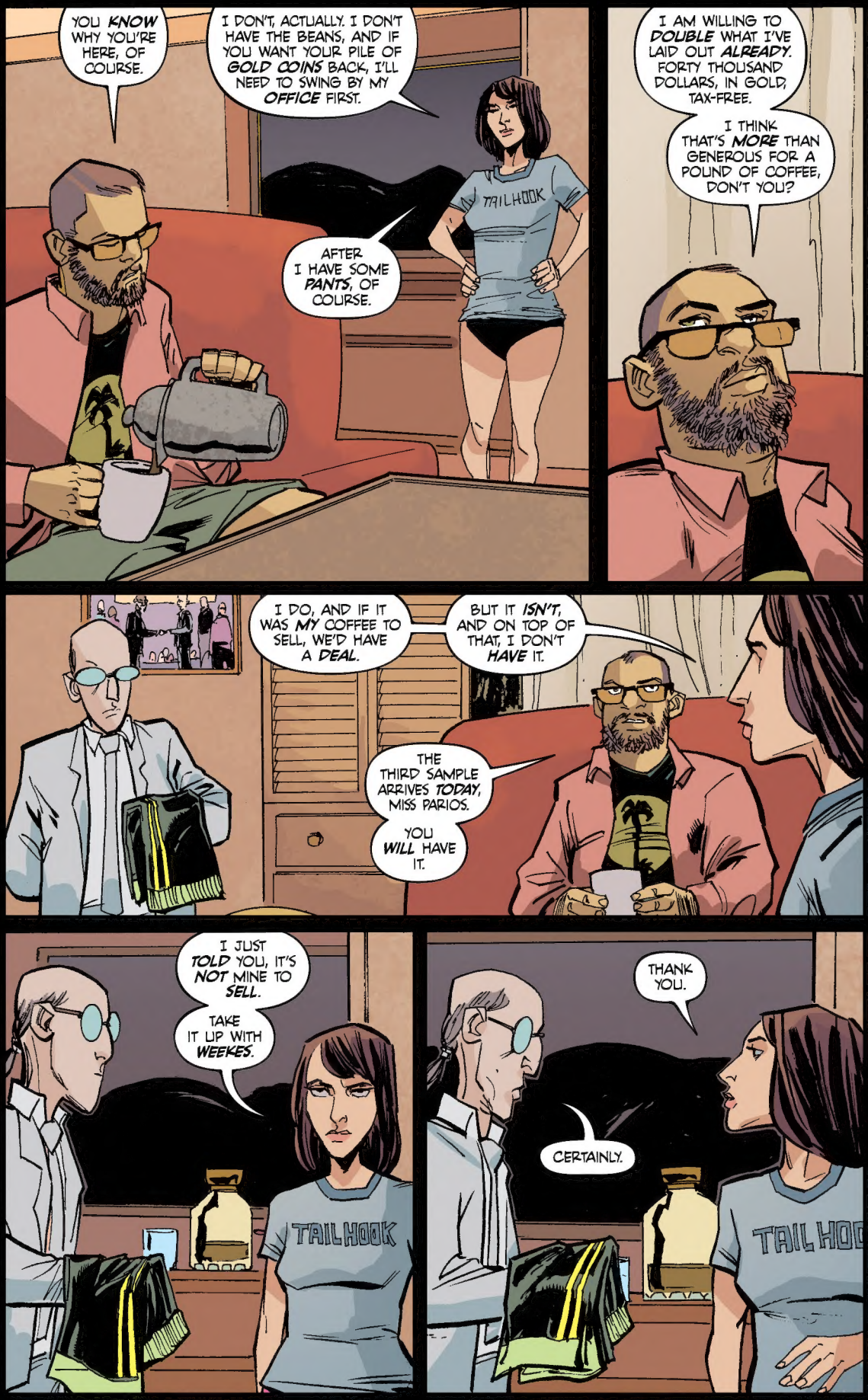
DOOM O's
D-DEX, I'MMA D-DONE.
DEX?
DOOM O's
DEX?

LA TORTUGA
I REPLACED THE BATTERIES.
JUST IN CASE.
PLEASE GET OUT.

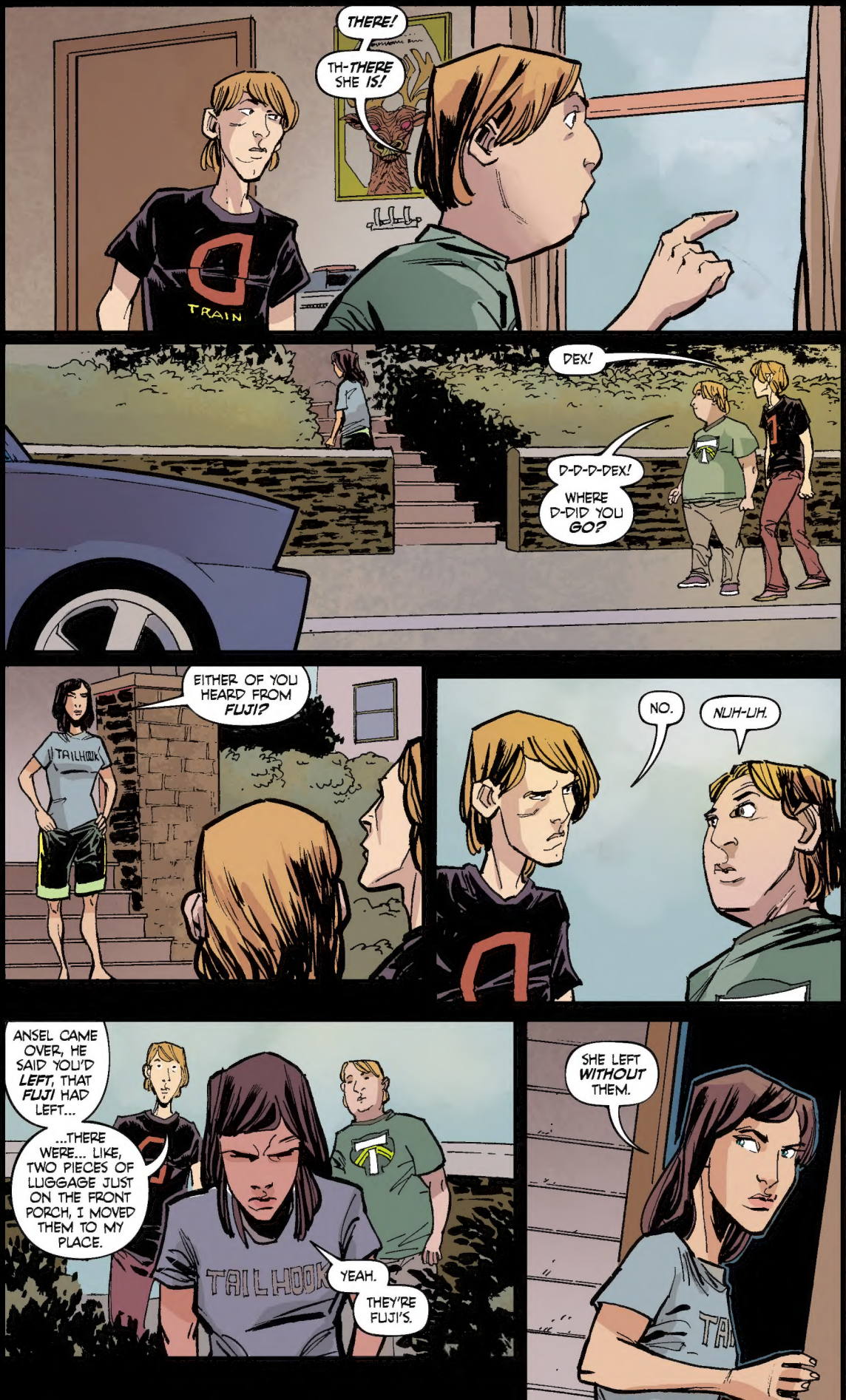
GOLDEN
KEY

YOU MUST BE MISTER LAIDLAW.
I SUPPOSE I *MUST*.
YOU ARE WITHOUT YOUR PANTS, MISS PARIOS. HAVE YOU *MISLAID* THEM?
NO, I KNOW *PRECISELY* WHERE THEY *ARE*.
YOUR GUY, DOVE, IS GUILTY OF *KIDNAPPING*, BY THE WAY...
...AND IF YOU'RE *PAYING* HIM, THAT MEANS YOU ARE, *TOO*.
DOVE, GET HER SOMETHING TO *WEAR*, WOULD YOU?
GOOD HELP IS *SO* HARD TO FIND.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME *COFFEE*?
YOU'RE *JOKING*, RIGHT?
PERHAPS.

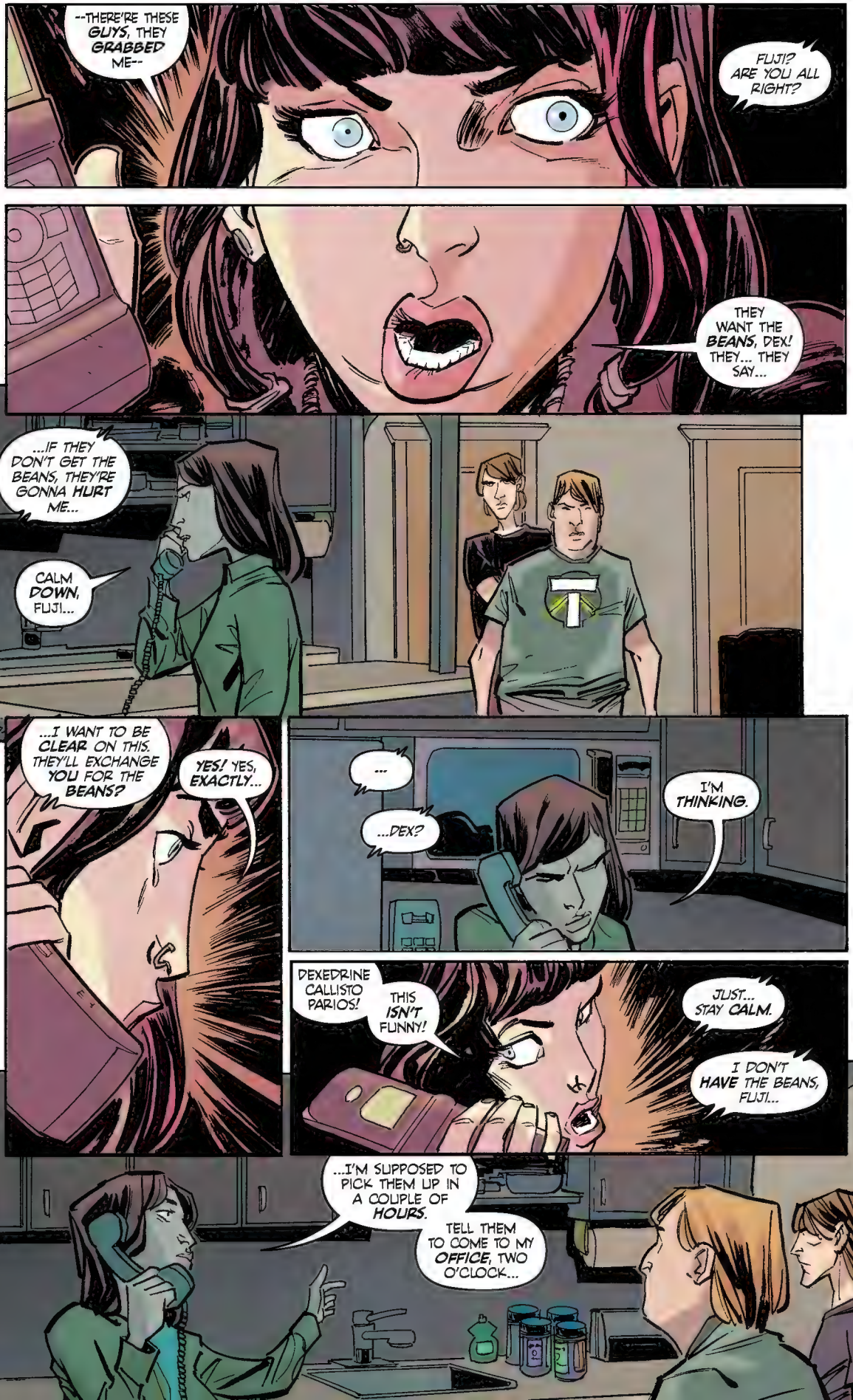

YOU KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE, OF COURSE.
I DON'T, ACTUALLY. I DON'T HAVE THE BEANS, AND IF YOU WANT YOUR PILE OF GOLD COINS BACK, I'LL NEED TO SWING BY MY OFFICE FIRST.
AFTER I HAVE SOME PANTS, OF COURSE.
TAILHOOK
I AM WILLING TO DOUBLE WHAT I'VE LAID OUT ALREADY. FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS, IN GOLD, TAX-FREE.
I THINK THAT'S MORE THAN GENEROUS FOR A POUND OF COFFEE, DON'T YOU?
I DO, AND IF IT WAS MY COFFEE TO SELL, WE'D HAVE A DEAL.
BUT IT ISN'T, AND ON TOP OF THAT, I DON'T HAVE IT.
THE THIRD SAMPLE ARRIVES TODAY, MISS PARIOS.
YOU WILL HAVE IT.
I JUST TOLD YOU, IT'S NOT MINE TO SELL.
TAKE IT UP WITH WEEKES.
TAILHOOK
THANK YOU.
CERTAINLY.
TAILHOO

WAIT--
--WAIT WAIT
WAIT WAIT
WAIT--
--WAIT!!
WHERE'S
FUJI?
WHO?

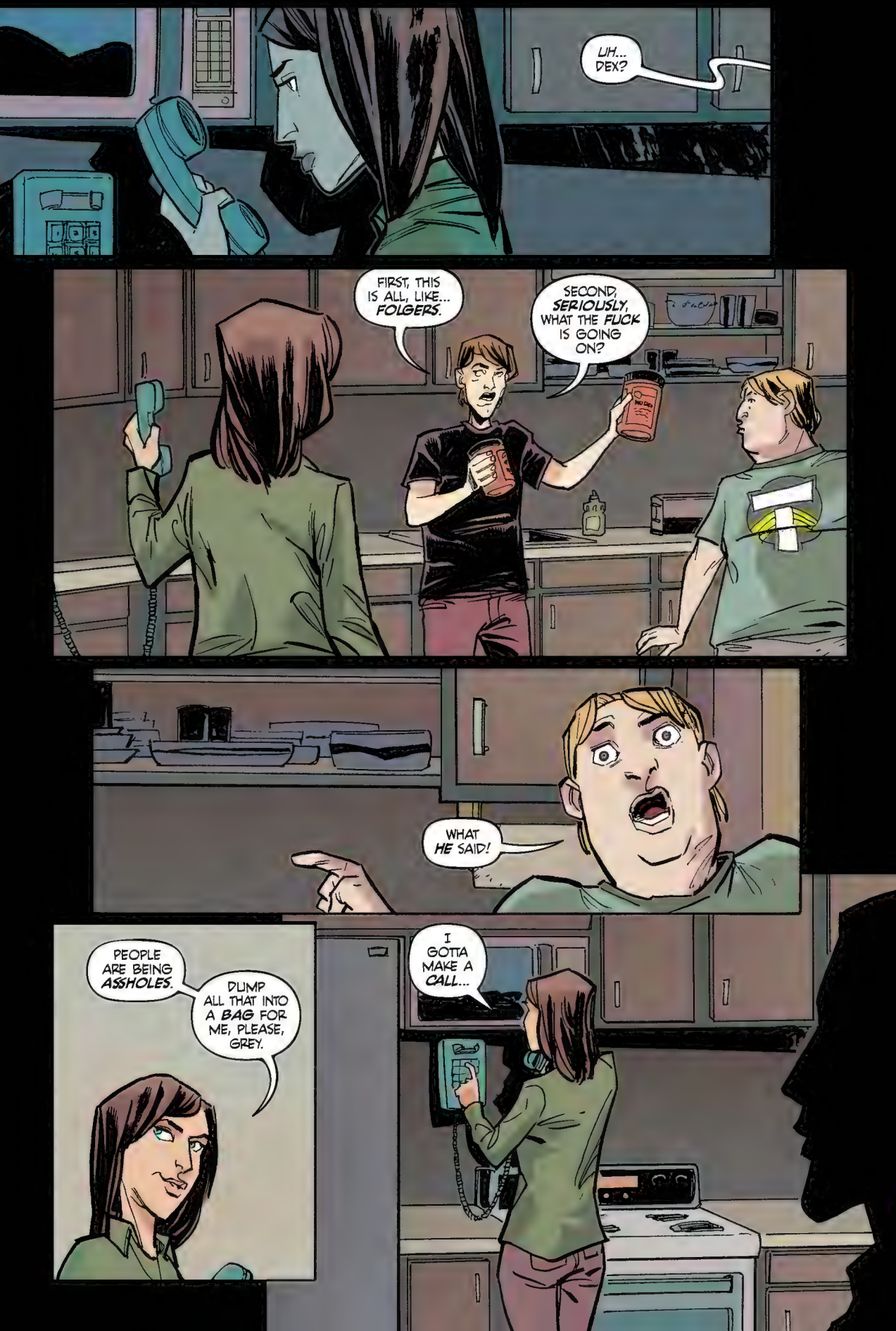
SHIT.
YOU REALLY NEED TO SHUT THE FUCK UP, MAN.
PARIOS--
--WE CAN COME TO AN AGREEMENT--
--THERE MUST BE SOMETHING YOU WANT?
I COULD HIRE YOU...
...YOU'RE CLEARLY FAR MORE QUALIFIED AT THIS SORT OF WORK THAN MISTER DOVE!
CERTAINLY WE CAN COME TO SOME SORT OF AN ARRANGEMENT?
IT'S ONLY COFFEE, MISS PARIOS.
EXACTLY.

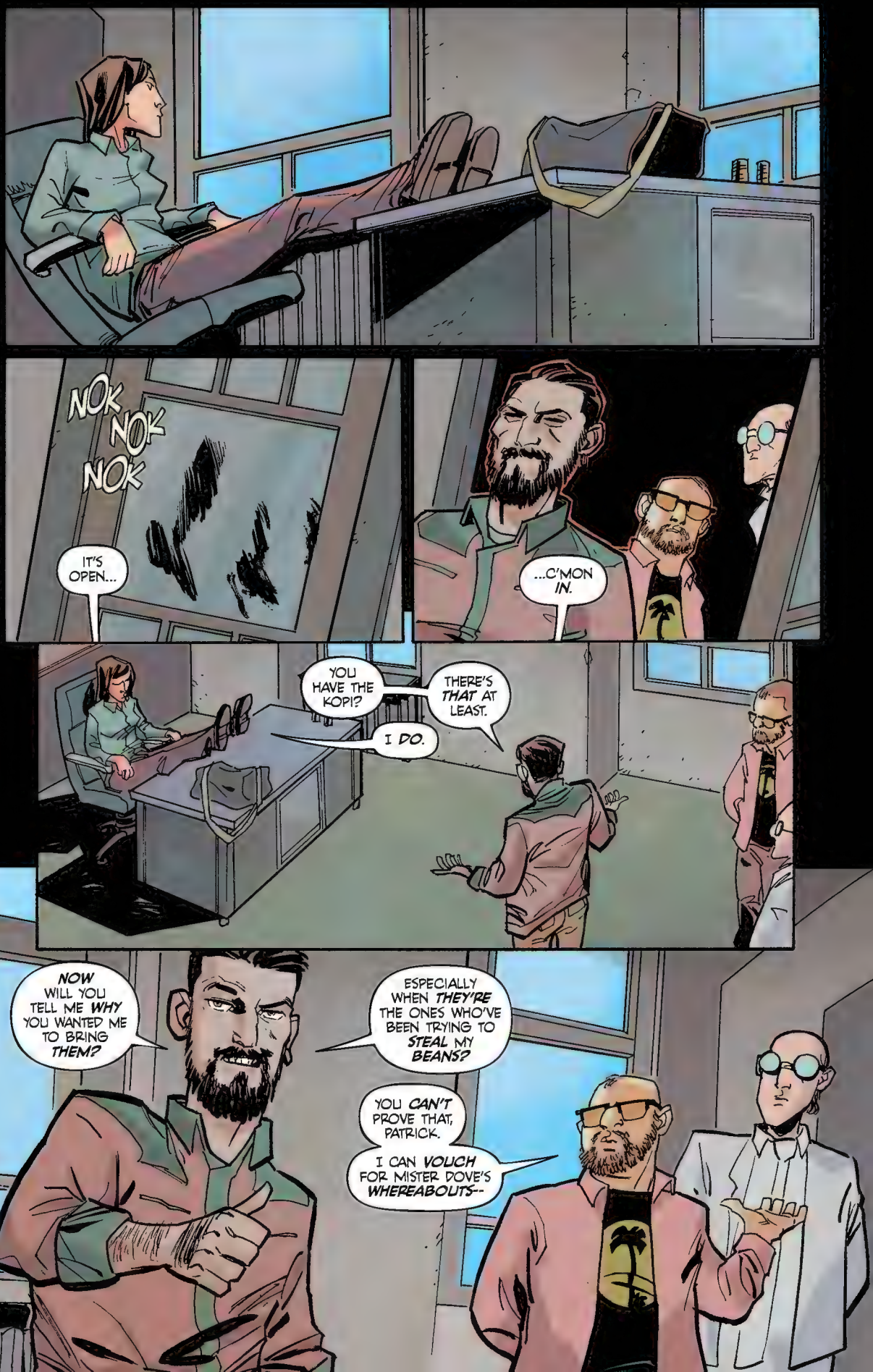

THERE!
TH-THERE SHE IS!
TRAIN
DEX!
D-D-D-DEX! WHERE D-DID YOU GO?
EITHER OF YOU HEARD FROM FUJI?
TAILHOOK
NO.
NUH-UH.
ANSEL CAME OVER, HE SAID YOU'D LEFT, THAT FUJI HAD LEFT...
...THERE WERE... LIKE, TWO PIECES OF LUGGAGE JUST ON THE FRONT PORCH, I MOVED THEM TO MY PLACE.
TAILHOOK
YEAH.
THEY'RE FUJI'S.
SHE LEFT WITHOUT THEM.

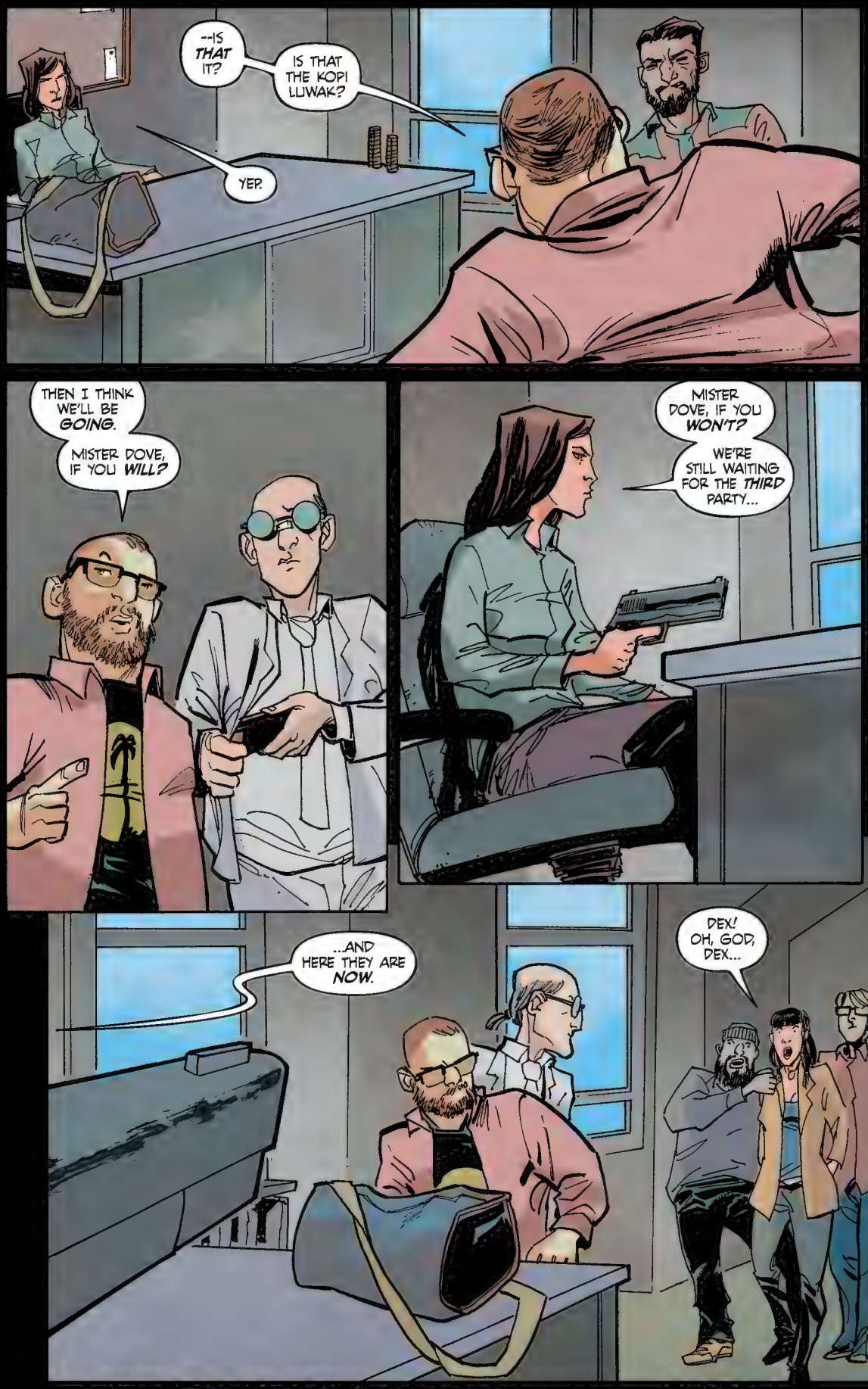
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "LEFT WITHOUT THEM?"
YEAH, DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE, DOES IT?
SHE'D NEVER LEAVE HER PRECIOUS CLOTHES BEHIND.
BE RIGHT BACK.
BREET BREET
I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO WATCH ANSEL FOR ME, GREY.
BREET BREET
WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?
PARIOS.
DEX? OH MY GOD, DEX--


--THERE'RE THESE GUYS, THEY GRABBED ME--
FUJI? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THEY WANT THE BEANS, DEX! THEY... THEY SAY...
...IF THEY DON'T GET THE BEANS, THEY'RE GONNA HURT ME...
CALM DOWN, FUJI...
...I WANT TO BE CLEAR ON THIS. THEY'LL EXCHANGE YOU FOR THE BEANS?
YES! YES, EXACTLY...
...
...DEX?
I'M THINKING.
DEXEDRINE CALLISTO PARIOS!
THIS ISN'T FUNNY!
JUST... STAY CALM.
I DON'T HAVE THE BEANS, FUJI...
...I'M SUPPOSED TO PICK THEM UP IN A COUPLE OF HOURS.
TELL THEM TO COME TO MY OFFICE, TWO O'CLOCK...

...WE'LL MAKE THE SWAP THEN.
I WILL, I'LL TELL THEM.
THANK YOU, DEX, THANK--
--AH, LET GO OF ME, LET GO--
--DEX!!
HER OFFICE, TWO O'CLOCK.
SHE'LL SWAP ME FOR THE BEANS.
ONCE WE'RE ALL OUT OF THERE, I'LL MEET YOU BACK HERE FOR MY HALF.
YOU GOT ANYTHING TO DRINK AROUND HERE THAT ISN'T COFFEE?
DUDE.
TOTALLY.


UH... DEX?
FIRST, THIS IS ALL, LIKE... FOLGERS.
SECOND, SERIOUSLY, WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON?
WHAT HE SAID!
I GOTTA MAKE A CALL...
PEOPLE ARE BEING ASSHOLES.
DUMP ALL THAT INTO A BAG FOR ME, PLEASE, GREY.


NOK NOK NOK
IT'S OPEN...
...C'MON IN.
YOU HAVE THE KOPI?
I DO.
THERE'S THAT AT LEAST.
NOW WILL YOU TELL ME WHY YOU WANTED ME TO BRING THEM?
ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE THE ONES WHO'VE BEEN TRYING TO STEAL MY BEANS?
YOU CAN'T PROVE THAT, PATRICK.
I CAN VOUCH FOR MISTER DOVE'S WHEREABOUTS--


--IS THAT IT?
IS THAT THE KOPI LUWAK?
YEP.
THEN I THINK WE'LL BE GOING.
MISTER DOVE, IF YOU WILL?
MISTER DOVE, IF YOU WON'T?
WE'RE STILL WAITING FOR THE THIRD PARTY...
...AND HERE THEY ARE NOW.
DEX! OH, GOD, DEX...

...UHM...
...WHO ARE THEY?
YOU!
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN IT WOULD BE YOU TWO BEHIND THE "BARISTA MAFIA!"
UH... HI, MISTER WEEKES.
DUDE.
I SHOULD'VE SEEN THAT COMING.
WANT TO EXPLAIN HOW YOU KNOW THESE GUYS, PATRICK?
THIS IS BRIAN BRADY AND LIAM KREBB, DEX.
FORMER BARISTAS AT SIP'S STOREFRONT...
...BEFORE I FIRED THEM FOR SELLING THEIR OWN ROASTS UNDER THE COUNTER...
...CINNAMON INFUSED KONA AND VANILLA-SCENTED GARUDA AND GARBAGE LIKE THAT!

ENHANCING BEANS WITH AROMATICS IS NOT A CRIME, IT'S--
IT'S A BASTARDIZATION OF COFFEE! MY GOD, IS THAT WHAT YOU HAD PLANNED FOR MY KOPI?
TURNING THE FINEST COFFEE IN THE WORLD INTO A STARBUCKS FRAPPUCINO-OF-THE-WEEK?
YOU...
...BASTARDS.
THERE'S THE PART WHERE THEY KIDNAPPED MY SISTER, TOO.
IF WE'RE LOOKING FOR THINGS TO ACTUALLY BE OUTRAGED ABOUT.
YOU OKAY?
FINE.
JUST WAS A LITTLE SCARED IS ALL.
I CAN IMAGINE.
THIS IS ALL VERY INTERESTING...
...AND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME, SO IF YOU DON'T MIND...

...I'LL JUST *COLLECT* WHAT I'VE *PAID FOR* AND MISTER DOVE AND I WILL BE *GOING*.

IT'S *COFFEE*, LAIDLAW.

ARE YOU *REALLY* GOING TO SHOOT MY SISTER IN THE *HEAD* OVER *COFFEE?*

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE *COFFEE*, MISS PARIOS.

IT'S ABOUT ME GETTING WHAT I *WANT*.

YOU *WON'T* DO IT.

I WON'T? *WHY* NOT?

BECAUSE I DON'T CARE *HOW* RICH YOU ARE, YOU'LL BE COMMITTING *MURDER* IN FRONT OF *FOUR* WITNESSES.

AND PRECISELY *BECAUSE* OF HOW RICH I *AM*, I'LL GET *AWAY* WITH IT.

DEX.

I'M *THINKING*.

DEXEDRINE CALLISTO!

SHIT.

FINE.
TAKE IT AND GET OUT.
WHAT? NO!
YOU CAN KEEP THE MONEY, PARIOS.
CONSIDER IT PAYMENT FOR SERVICES RENDERED.
SO.
I, UH...
...I GUESS WE'LL BE GOING, TOO...?
I GUESS YOU DAMN-WELL BETTER.

ALL RIGHT, COME ON.
LET'S GET YOUR COFFEE...
...BE RIGHT BACK, FUJI.

I THOUGHT I DID PRETTY WELL...
...I MEAN, I WAS PRETTY CONVINCING, WASN'T I?
LAIDLAW BOUGHT IT AND EVERYTHING?
AT LEAST UNTIL HE TASTES WHAT HE GOT, YEAH.
YOU USED THE COFFEE FROM THESE CONTAINERS, RIGHT?
YOU JUST SWITCHED THEM?
NAH, COULDN'T. THE STUFF IN THOSE CONTAINERS COMES PRE-GROUND.
I USED STARBUCKS.
AHH HAHAH HAHAHA HAH!!
FANTASTIC!
SEE YOU AROUND, PARIOS!

--DO YOU MEAN, YOU CAN'T TAKE THIS--
--IT'S GOLD, YOU'VE GOT TO BE ABLE TO TAKE GOLD!
LADY, THE COUNTRY WENT OFF THE GOLD STANDARD IN 1971.
I'LL COVER IT, WALLY...
...SHE'S FAMILY.
WITH THAT KIND OF TACT, I'D NEVER HAVE GUESSED.
ONE-WAY TO SEATTLE.
THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING AMTRAK.

I'M **NOT** GIVING IT **BACK**, DON'T EVEN **ASK**.

I **NEED** THE MONEY **MORE** THAN YOU, OKAY?

OKAY.

I HATE BEING PREDICTABLE.

HEY, FUJI.

WHAT?

NEXT TIME YOU THINK ABOUT COMING TO **VISIT** ME?

DON'T.

GIVE MY LOVE TO ANSEL, DEX.

THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES
NEXT MONTH...
The Case of the Night
That Wouldn't End

TESTIMONIAL WITH...

RACHEL

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HELLO READERS!

You've made it to the end of the comic, and do you know what that means? It's time for the second installment of Oni Press's monthly editorial! Publicity coordinator Rachel here to tell you what I'm excited about this month!

My interests currently include: talking about Star Wars, reading about Star Wars, drawing Star Wars fanart, and nothing else. Please join me in collectively screaming about how awesome *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* is. Rey. Finn. Poe. Kylo Ren. Maz. Han. Leia. BB-8. Captain Phasma. LET ME JUST ROLL YOU ALL IN A BALL AND HUG YOU.

You know what else I'm excited about? COMICS. There's a bunch of comics I'm SUUUUPER excited to talk about that are on sale this month! First up is the debut of *Another Castle* by Andrew Wheeler and Paulina Ganucheau. The art is soooo pretty and the story is so much fun. I just want to dress up like a rad princess while reading this! (OK, let's be honest, I probably will.) This month also marks the debut of Tom Fowler as the new series writer for our *Rick and Morty* comic! Meanwhile, Dave Crosland continues to KILL IT as new series artist for our *Invader Zim* comic. I like to refer to him as "the album artist for that Gym Class Heroes album." You know the one, right?

I'm also looking forward to next month for several reasons, including the debut of *The Mighty Zodiac* by J. Torres and Corin Howell with Maarta Laiho! When the Blue Dragon dies, six stars fall out of the night sky! Ailing Master Long, leader of the Mighty Zodiac, orders his warriors to gather the stars, lest they fall into the hands of the malevolent Moon Rabbit Army. The saga begins April 6th!

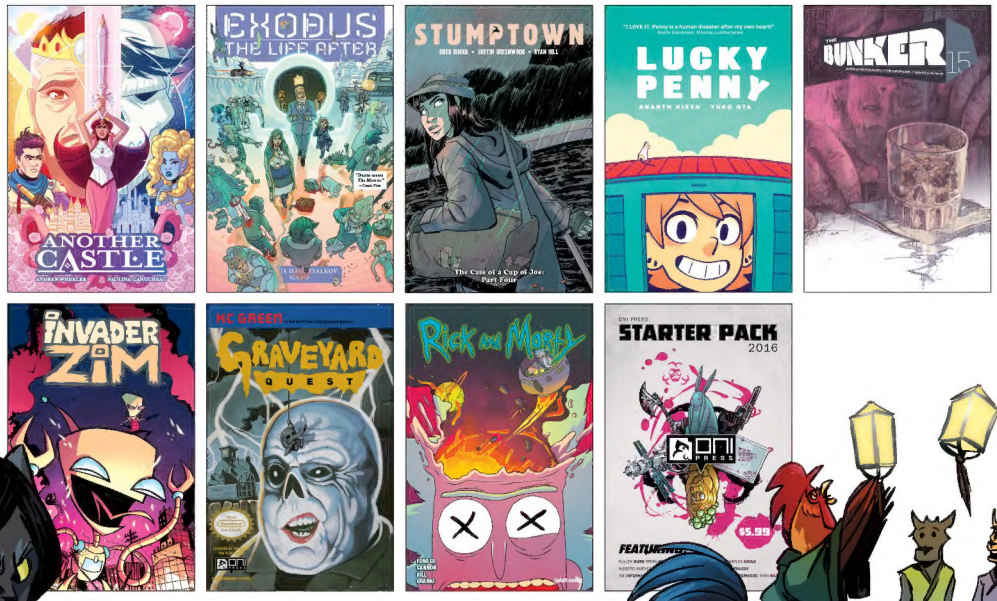
Seriously, look at the gorgeous art below. I'm pretty sure Corin Howell and Maarta Laiho are wizards.

And finally, also debuting next month is *Heartthrob*, a new series about bank heists and thieving hearts from writer Christopher Sebela, artist Robert Wilson IV, and colorist Nick Filardi. It's kind of like *Bonnie & Clyde* meets *Fight Club*, if Jack was Jane, and Jane made out with Tyler Durden a bunch.

We're super excited for you to check out all these amazing titles, so pick them up from your friendly neighborhood comics retailer, and let us know what you think!

See ya in April (and visit us at WonderCon in Los Angeles, March 25-27, Booth #1817)!,
Rachel
Publicity Coordinator

▸ WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH



ART FROM THE MIGHTY ZODIAC BY CORIN HOWELL & MAARTA LAIHO